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Application for 140 extra homes

BID TO BLOCK HOMES

Civic boss guilty of sex assault

AN OXFORDSHIRE County Council team leader was convicted last Thursday of sexually assaulting a woman in her bedroom.

Peter Brown, from the authority's roads and transport team, was found guilty of the September 2011 crime by Oxford Crown Court jurors after nine hours of deliberations.

His victim had told jurors that Brown, 56, had behaved inappropriately for months before groping her in her bedroom after he offered to fix her ensuite shower.

Brown, of Drayton, had claimed he had only touched the woman's leg in a supportive gesture.

But the jury of three men and nine women convicted the Drayton Parish Council chairman with a majority verdict of ten to two.

Brown, a born-again Christian, was released on bail following the verdict and will return to the court on Monday, November 3, to be sentenced after a pre-sentence report is prepared by the probation service.

But Judge Gordon Risius said before the adjournment that an immediate prison sentence was unlikely.

He said: "I can tell you straight away on the basis of what I know at the moment, the prospects of immediate custody are remote."

"I do not exclude it totally but it is only fair to say those prospects are remote."

A county council spokesman said: "We take this matter very seriously. Mr Brown is not currently at work pending disciplinary proceedings in the light of the court verdict. We cannot comment further."



Peter Brown

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PLANS to expand a controversial housing estate to the north of Banbury by 140 more homes should be refused, a council planning officer has said.

Pandora Ltd wants to build 230 homes on the western side of Southam Road after getting permission for 90 last December.

A planning application for 230 homes will be put before Cherwell District Council's planning committee today.

Pandora also has permission for 510 homes on the eastern side. Both sites are in the council's Local Plan blueprint, which maps out where possible future development could go.

Landscape planning officer Judith Ward said extra homes would damage the landscape.

She added: "The application provides no justification for this additional housing."

"The consented 90-dwelling scheme followed the site contours. This scheme does not."

"There is no real explanation or justification of the proposals."

Judith Dixey, of Foxhill House, just north of the site, told the council in a letter: "Why can't brown sites be used instead of green sites?"

"These green fields are home to numerous wildlife. Deer and otters have been seen in the stream. Where will all

By Alex Wynick

these animals go?" She added that she had concerns about the effect of new families on traffic, schools, hospitals and doctors' surgeries.

Yet a statement to the council from the developer said: "Overall, we consider the comments disappointing and rather disingenuous."

"It is a fact that landscape and visual analysis is subjective and not an exact science."

'These green fields are home to numerous wildlife. Where will all these animals go?'

"We acknowledge and accept that more of the hill is developed and that this is most evident when viewed from Dukes Meadow Drive."

"However, open land is still visible from a number of other locations."

"The development would not breach the skyline, and this fact alone demonstrates that we have given due consideration to this in the landscape analysis and master plan design – this is a positive."

The planning committee meeting is open to the public and will be held today at 4pm at Bodicote House.

The Local Plan policy document includes plans for more than 16,000 homes by 2031. A public consultation on modifications closes on Friday.

InBRIEF

Cash boost for families charity

■ A CHARITY that supports Oxfordshire families has benefitted from a cash boost.

Home-Start Banbury and Chipping Norton received a £5,000 donation from Banbury car parts supplier Tibbetts Group.

Senior organiser Jane Skelton said: "We would like to say a huge thank you to the people at TGL for their generous donation."

"£5,000 is a fantastic amount. It allows us to support four families for a whole year and will have a tremendous impact helping parents give their children a better start in life."

The charity supports parents and their children under five through a home-visiting scheme.

Last year it supported 90 families, including a total of 216 children.

For more information, visit home-startbanbury.org.uk/help_us.php

Comments call

■ HOOK Norton's neighbourhood development plan has been launched to seek residents ideas on the future development of the village. The consultation will run until 5pm on October 23. For more information, visit gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning/

Plea to families

■ PARENTS across the county are being sought to support families. Oxfordshire County Council is looking for parents to volunteer as "parent champions". They will help families find early learning activities, encourage participation in early learning and at children's centres. Call the parent champion co-ordinator Debroah McKinon on 0845 2262636.

Waterside welcome for an annual town festival



BOATERS and crafters will come together on Banbury's canal on Sunday for the town's annual festival.

In its 11th year, the festival will see stalls pop up across the town and hundreds of boats line the canal's banks – with some letting people come on board and others selling crafts and produce.

Hook Norton Brewery, the Mill Arts Centre and General Foods Garden are among those who will be opening their doors to the public and providing food, drink and entertainment.

The day's activities will include the Banbury Cross Players, who will be performing and hoping to attract new

By Alex Wynick

members. Tooley's Boatyard will give blacksmith demonstrations and engine displays, as well as running historic walks through the town.

There will also be performances from Banbury Rock Choir, Step by Step Dance School and pupils from Frank Wise School.

The day will run from 10.30am to 5pm, and has a fancy-dress theme of Cowboys and Indians.

For more information visit www.banbury.gov.uk/Banbury-Town-Council/canal_day_2014-5542.aspx



FLASHBACK to last year, with visitors viewing vintage engines, top left, a packed canal side, left, and Susan Wallace and James Boswell, right, enjoying last year's event



Ambulance campaign warns of dangers of 'nuisance calls'

REQUESTS for help with broken fingernails, changing light bulbs and fixing broken TV remote controls are wasting paramedics' time, an ambulance boss has warned.

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust boss Will Hancock said trivial calls were diverting crews from real emergencies.

Now the service has made a film about how such calls can affect the service. It is available to view online at 999southcentral.co.uk.

Requests include asking for lifts home, attending to sick pets, noisy neighbour complaints, burning food and people with no credit on their mobile phone.

Mr Hancock said: "I would like to encourage everyone to take a look at our hard-hitting campaign film '999 South Central', which shows just how lives are put at risk when 999 is called inappropriately."

"Everyone at SCAS is committed to continually improving the service we provide to the community and we would urge members of the public to help us

and only use 999 when it is absolutely necessary."

The service said time-wasting calls were damaging at a time when demand on the service was rising.

The number of emergency calls rose from 18,917 in 2012/13 to 20,588 in 2013/14. Managers have struggled to hit response targets, particularly in rural areas.

Crews have to get to at least 75 per cent of the most serious cases in eight minutes but this was 73.6 per cent in July and 73.5 per cent in August.

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'Good' verdict after latest visit from schools inspector



Two-year effort earns school Ofsted praise

A BANBURY primary school has been rated "good" by Ofsted, two years after inspectors said it needed "significant improvement".

Orchard Fields Community School, which has almost 400 pupils, has risen from "inadequate" to "good".

The Edmunds Road school was rated "inadequate" in March 2012 and was found not to have improved by July last year after two pupils were excluded.

Both visits criticised attendance levels and said teaching needed improving to help pupils achieve better marks.

But inspector Alison Cartledge praised improvements in the

By Alex Wynick

school's teaching and governance after a two-day inspection last month. Attendance and punctuality had improved "dramatically".

She said: "Members of staff provide exciting activities and support pupil's differing needs well.

"Pupils achieve well throughout the school. They make good progress from their starting points because they are, in most lessons, given work which meets their learning needs and abilities.

"Pupils are enthusiastic and eager to learn. Pupils take pride in belonging to the school and respect the needs of others."

She said that there was

still room for improvement as the youngest pupils do not always progress quickly enough in reading.

She added: "Occasionally, opportunities are missed to extend learning in these aspects when children are working on tasks they have chosen for themselves.

"Teachers do not always show pupils how to take the next steps in their learning."

She said staff should "take every opportunity to encourage speaking and writing" and teachers should give "clear next steps for learning and checking that they respond to this advice straight away".

Headteacher Dawn Shilston said: "Our pupils'

behaviour is a credit to their parents and our school.

"Through the dedication, hard work and consistently good teaching from teachers and support staff, our pupils have high aspirations for their futures and aim high; this was highlighted by the Ofsted inspectors."

Chairman of governors John Christie said: "It is good to see that a community school where children, teachers, parents and governors working together and backed by good support from their local council can achieve such rapid improvement.

"Our goal now is to achieve 'outstanding' status within two years."

US author's gifts to book shops

AN American author has donated more than £10,000 to six Oxfordshire independent bookshops.

James Patterson, who wrote the Alex Cross series including *Kiss the Girls* and *Along Came a Spider*, gave the grants to inspire children to read.

Jaffé & Neale Bookshop in Chipping Norton received £5,000 to buy a new van to be used to tour festivals and schools.

Bookshop worker Jerry Boyd said: "We do a couple of festivals at the moment, such as Wildnerness and Festival, but this will allow us

to go to more events and schools to make books more accessible to kids."

Banbury's Books and Ink Bookshop owner Sam Barnes would not reveal how much she received as she was working on a secret project to "refresh" part of her shop.

Meanwhile, Cole's Bookstore in Bicester was given £700 towards refurbishing its 20-year-old children's play area, while the Bell Bookshop in Henley got £2,000 towards refurbishing its children's area and till system.

Wallingford Bookshop received

£900 to create a website for its monthly children's book club, which has about 30 members.

The Book House in Thame got £1,000 to refurbish an area to be used for a new Stories by Starlight children's book club.

Mr Patterson, who has sold more than 280 million books, had promised to give away £250,000 across the UK and had asked bookshops to apply for grants for specific projects.

In his first round of funding, he has already allocated more than £130,000 to 73 shops across the country.

Six men and youth deny child sex charges

SEVEN men denied child sexual exploitation charges at Oxford Crown Court on Monday.

All pleaded not guilty to a total of 24 counts against seven alleged victims.

The incidents are alleged to have taken place between 2009 and last year.

The accused include:

- Ahmed Hassan, 20, of Glyndebourne Gardens, Banbury;
- Said Saleh, 20, of Orchard Way, Banbury;
- Mohamed Saleh, 21, of Orchard Way, Banbury;
- Takudzwa Hova, 21, of Broughton Road, Banbury;
- Kagiso Manase, 20, of Warwick Road, Banbury;
- Alexandru Nae, 19, of Broome Way, Banbury;
- A 17-year-old from Banbury who cannot be named for legal reasons.

They are due to stand trial from December 22.

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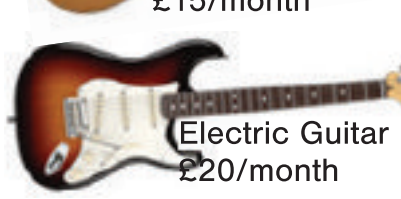
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Badgers to be vaccinated in bid to halt spread of bovine TB

BADGERS in Oxfordshire are to be vaccinated against Bovine TB to create a buffer zone against the disease.

The vaccination programme has been announced by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

with the aim of preventing the disease from spreading to cattle outside the South West and West Midlands.

Farms Minister George Eustice said: "Bovine TB continues to be a huge threat to our beef and dairy farmers,

our economy and our food security, which is why we are pursuing a comprehensive strategy to beat it.

"As part of this, I want to see vaccination groups come together, building on prior experience to deliver

badger vaccination in the edge area.

"This could be an important part of our collective efforts, to prevent the spread of this terrible disease in cattle to new areas of the country."

The so-called "edge area" covers

Oxfordshire, Cheshire, Leicestershire and Hampshire.

Earlier this year it was revealed that Oxfordshire's farmers were struggling to cope with the spread of TB. There were 63 herds affected in March alone.

Local beef farmer Jeremy Brown said: "It completely screws up your farm. It's hopeless and I'm not prepared to do it any more.

"This could still be going on in ten years time. Are we ever going to get on top of this?"

Under the Government's programme, vaccination schemes can apply for funding towards up to half the long-term costs of vaccination, free loans of equipment such as traps, and free vaccine supply.

Eligible vaccination projects need to be predominantly in the edge area, and will be required to cover a minimum area of approximately 15 sq km.

Applications need to be submitted by February 27.



Badgers may be vaccinated to try to halt the spread of TB in cattle

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■ Court told NHS whistleblower wanted to strike back Judge jails firebug over £18,000 spree

IN a 20-minute spree, an NHS whistleblower set fire to a Masonic hall and three cashpoints – causing £18,000 worth of damage

Colin Aries, 50, of no fixed address, was last week jailed for two years for torching bank machines belonging to Lloyds TSB, Santander and Yorkshire Bank and also setting a blaze at a Freemasons hall in Banbury.

Oxford Crown Court heard Aries turned to arson after quitting a care job in both the NHS and a private firm when concerns he raised were not dealt with.

By Ben Wilkinson

Prosecutor Nigel Osborne said the fires were set between 2am and 2.20am on Thursday, June 5. Aries had cycled to the scene of the crimes and used an accelerant.

Damage to the Masonic hall was estimated at £14,000 and damage to one cashpoint was worth £4,550.

Mr Osborne said Aries sent a former colleague a text message after the fires, which read: "Hello, I am the chap who was responsible for the arson attacks in Banbury earlier in the week.

"Over the course of the

week I will be doing the same to The Slade."

Officers went to Aries' address in Broughton Road, Banbury, and found bags of liquid and a plastic fuel container.

When police called Aries on his mobile, he told them: "I have had a really bad last two years and those responsible for that are going to get what they deserve.

"I am not going to hurt anyone I can assure you of that, but what I will do will make the news."

Police searched his home again on June 9 and found him hiding in a wardrobe.

Garth James, defending, said Aries had

been left without a job and was unable to claim benefits after quitting his two care roles.

He said: "It appears that it was a result of long-term build up of stress."

Aries, who watched proceedings via a videolink to HMP Bullingdon prison, admitted four arson charges and threatening to destroy property by fire.

Judge Ian Pringle, sentencing, said to Aries: "Whatever your feelings about certain things in society, going and burning banks is not the way to behave."

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Help to Buy: 300 sign up

MORE than 300 people in the county have bought a home using the Government-backed Help to Buy scheme.

It offers financial support for people with deposits as low as five per cent to buy new-build homes worth up to £600,000.

Latest figures show 303 loans were agreed in the county between last April and the end of July this year.

Radian is the official agent for the scheme in Oxfordshire.

Law firm wins in regional final

BANBURY-based law firm Brethertons has won the regional final for the West Midlands as the medium-sized employer of the year in the National Apprenticeship Awards.

Brethertons has trained 41 apprentices over the past 13 years.

Elaine Hamblett, associate of human resources, said the comprehensive law firm currently employed three legal apprentices and two

business administration apprentices. She said: "We're now able to offer a more diverse range of apprenticeships."

The firm has 258 staff. About two-thirds are lawyers. Brethertons is in the process of moving its HQ from Rugby to Banbury. It also has an office in Bicester.

The National Apprenticeship Awards grand final will be held in Birmingham on November 13.

Charity in oil deals

A COUNTRYSIDE community group is encouraging villagers with oil heating systems to sign up to its bulk-buying scheme.

Oxfordshire Rural Community Council has said it has so far saved members between £50 and £70 on 1,000 litres of oil in a matter of months.

Villagers have been paying an annual £24 to the group, which then uses its larger buying power to negotiate lower prices with oil providers in Oxfordshire.

Meet mums who are top at business

AFTER thousands of people cast their vote, the three finalists for the Oxfordshire Business Mother of the Year Award have been chosen.

The award is one of 15 categories in the Oxfordshire Venus Awards, which celebrates women in business.

One of the final three is Jody Fletcher, director of Banbury-based Chilli Promotional Products, which sells branded items like mousemats and jumpers to companies.

The 36-year-old, who has a two-year-old daughter, Lottie, said: "This is really exciting."

"I'm quite active on social networking so I put out quite a few posts asking people to vote for me."

The winner will be revealed at the final ball, which will be staged at the Oxford Belfry Hotel on Friday, November 14.

Mrs Fletcher said: "I've just been taking it one step at a time. I hadn't thought about the final. It's quite nerve-wracking, really."

Lesley Southam, also from Banbury, is the second finalist after gaining votes for juggling her cake business and caring for her step-daughter, Robyn, 16, and children, Cameron, eight and Millie, six.

She said: "I'm quite overwhelmed. It's really nice to know people voted."

"I went a bit nuts on Facebook to get people to vote for me because that's where I've always driven my business."

"I never expected to get to the semi-finals, so to be in the top three is amazing."

The final candidate is Julie Mutton, from Wootton. The 43-year-old runs beauty company Bare UK in St Aldeate's, Oxford.

By Alex Wynick

The Venus Awards were founded in 2009 by Tara Howard, but this is the first year they have come to Oxfordshire.

After the finalists were announced, she said: "Being a mother is an amazing thing that no woman should miss out on."

"What a great time we have got where we can have it all. Congratulations to anyone who manages a business and children, but especially our three finalists."



ABOVE: Lesley Southam
LEFT: Jody Fletcher

Complaints torrent becomes a trickle

THAMES Water has reduced the number of complaints it receives by 10,300 in a year, a new report has found.

The Consumer Council for Water praised the firm after its annual study and said the company had responded to calls for a better service.

But the report also claimed Thames Water had more work to do, with the firm remaining among the worst for numbers of complaints about sewerage, leaks and supply issues.

It was the worst-performing firm for resolving complaints quickly, but did improve its record on the previous year. Suppliers have a 90 per cent target for resolving issues after just one written complaint.

Thames Water managed to do this 89.2 per cent of the time in 2014 and 2013 – up from 83.4 per cent in

the previous period.

CCWater said: "Thames Water, the largest water and sewerage company in England and Wales, has responded to our calls to improve its service to customers."

"Evidence of this came with a reduction of complaints, taking the company to below the industry average, and improving its comparative position by three places."

"Thames Water said it has identified leakage as a major source of water supply complaints and aims to address this issue."

There was a downward trend in complaints to water companies nationally, the group added, but customer satisfaction remained a major challenge. Improving satisfaction with value for money and affordability remained a major challenge for the industry.

Work starts on old care home site

WORK has begun to transform the site of a former Banbury care home into 16 new affordable houses.

Built on the old Orchard Lodge site in Warwick Road, the new Orchard housing complex will see a selection of two- and three-bedroom houses made available on a shared ownership basis as part of Cherwell District council's Build! project.

The homes are expected to be completed to a basic standard by March 2015, at which point future owners will undertake tasks such as plastering, decoration and kitchen installations.

In exchange for the work, which will be carried out under the supervision of construction managers, residents will receive a £10,000 discount on their property.

Chiltern vies for title of most punctual

BASED on the percentage of services that arrive within a minute of their scheduled time, new figures released by Network Rail show that Chiltern Railways was one of the most punctual rail operators, with 85.2 per cent of its trains arriving on time.

Chiltern came joint second in this category, along with London Overground, Merseyrail and Northern Rail, which all had just 1.8 per cent of trains that were cancelled or significantly late.

Operations and safety director at Chiltern Railways Andrew Munden

said: "These results reinforce our commitment to providing a punctual service on which our passengers can rely. We take punctuality very seriously and our team works hard to make sure we give our passengers the best travel experience possible."

InBRIEF

Two on knife attack charge

■ **TWO** men accused of a knife attack in a Banbury park, where a 22-year-old man was stabbed, have been denied bail. Umar Bashir, 22, asked for bail at Oxford Crown Court on Wednesday of last week but his plea was refused by Recorder Rupert Lowe. And a similar call by co-accused Atique Akhtar, 20, was also denied. Bashir, of Woodfield, and Akhtar, of Ferguson Road, are charged with inflicting grievous bodily harm. They were charged after a victim was knifed in the stomach in Moorfield Park earlier this month. Both accused remain in custody.

'No concerns'

■ **THERE** are "no concerns" about changes to Oxfordshire County Council's governance structure, a report says. County solicitor Peter Clark has reviewed the changes, which were introduced in April 2013, and saw a reduction in the number of scrutiny committees and the creation of a transport advisory panel. Reviewing the changes, Mr Clark said there were no concerns from officers or councillors about them.

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999 copter set to take to the skies at night

MORE paramedics could take to the skies as the county's air ambulance service revealed it hopes to start night flights.

From next year, the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance will fly 24 hours a day from its RAF Benson base.

The expansion of the service, which covers Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, is due to a new helicopter – which has night-flying capability – being added to the fleet.

Mark McGeown, the chief executive of TVCAA, said: "Night flying takes helicopter emergency medical services to the next level and the service truly into a new era in its 15-year-long history.

"This is a major achievement. It is through the hard work of our dedicated team that we have been able to achieve this. We're thrilled to be further enhancing operational

By Marese O'Sullivan

capability – all for the good of the people who live in the counties we serve."

Spokesman Antonia Taylor said: "We're getting a new helicopter, an Air Bus EC135T3. It's optimised for night flying.

"Realistically, it'll be the second half of 2015 when night flights start. It's likely we'll employ more staff; we'll have additional paramedic shifts to fill."

Alongside the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance, the charity will upgrade to the new helicopter, which offers high endurance and low fuel consumption. Both will be leased from Bond Air Services Ltd.

The service launched in 1999 and has so far flown over 15,000 missions.

The number of flights varies

according to the season, averaging three a day. In summer this can rise to ten. Ninety per cent of flights have a doctor on board. The TVCAA's goal is to ensure there will soon be a doctor on every flight. The TVCAA will also expand its staff quarters to accommodate the extended times.

Most incidents are linked to people injured in road accidents. Thirty-five trauma patients were also transported in the last three months – compared to 21 in the previous quarter.

"The South Central Ambulance Service takes the initial call. They determine whether the incident warrants a helicopter call-out. It's on a case-by-case basis," said Ms Taylor.

"We have the pilot, one or two paramedics, one doctor and the patient in the helicopter. We also have blood on board, which offers more treatment options."



LEFT: The air ambulance, pictured in flight

BELOW: With the arrival of a new helicopter, night flying may become the norm



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■ Five jobs to be lost in Banbury

Mobile phone shop set to close down

PHONES 4U in Banbury is to close and its five staff made redundant, it has been announced.

Administrators PricewaterhouseCoopers announced that it was among the 362 stores across the county that would be closing with a total of 1,697 staff made redundant.

Joint administrator and PwC partner Rob Hunt said: "It is with much regret that we have made the difficult decision to close a

By Pete Hughes

large number of stores.

"It is a sad day for the staff working at those locations and our thoughts are with them.

"We will make every effort to help the affected staff, working with the Phones 4u HR team over the coming days to support employees."

InCOURT

Verdicts from magistrates courts around the county

■ **DANIEL TOWNER**, 21, of Edmunds Road, Banbury, admitted using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour with intent to cause fear of unlawful violence in Banbury on March 2. Fined £100 and told to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ **SAMUEL JORY**, 74, of Tanners Lane, Adderbury, admitted drink-driving in Banbury Road, Deddington, on March 13. Had 137mg of alcohol in 100ml of blood, above the legal limit of 80mg. Fined £200 and told to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £85 costs. Banned from driving for 14 months.

■ **ASHLEY CRANE**, 18, of no fixed address, admitted possession of Class-B drug cannabis in Banbury on June 26. Given a six-month conditional discharge and told to pay a £15 victims' surcharge.

■ **DARREN JAMES**, 33, of Tithe Court, Banbury, admitted producing a controlled drug of Class-B, namely cannabis, in Tithe Court, Banbury, on August 23. Community order made with electronic curfew requirement. Told to pay a £60 victims' surcharge and £40 costs.

■ **ALEXANDRU SCUTARU**, 26, of Padbury Drive, Banbury, admitted drink-driving in North Bar Street, Banbury, on August 25. Had 82mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, above the legal limit of 35mcg. Fined £200 and told to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £85 costs. Banned from driving for 20 months.

■ **JASON PHIPPS**, 40, of The Moors Drive, Middleton Cheney, admitted speeding at 51mph in a 30mph zone in Aynho Road, Adderbury, on February 13. Fined £200 and told to pay a £20

victims' surcharge and £85 costs. Licence endorsed with five points.

■ **DANIEL HANWELL**, 21, of Alma Road, Banbury, admitted stealing £72.17 worth of electrical and food items from Sainsbury's in Bure Place, Bicester, on September 17 while subject to a conditional discharge for 12 months given at Banbury Magistrates' Court for three counts of theft on April 7. Given a community order requiring 12 months' supervision and ordered to pay a £60 victims' surcharge.

■ **MARK ADAMBERRY**, 20, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, admitted assaulting a person at Austen Walk, Bicester, on August 31. Ordered to carry out 90 hours of unpaid work in the next year and pay a £60 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ **DANIEL MACKINTOSH**, 18, of Kenilworth Way, Banbury, admitted possessing cannabis, a Class-B drug, at Princess Diana Park in Bretch Hill, Banbury, on August 15. Fined £110 and ordered to pay a £20 victims' surcharge.

■ **CHARLES WATSON**, 44, of Spring Street, Chipping Norton, admitted drink-driving at Lyneham, West Oxfordshire, on August 30. Had 80mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath over the legal limit of 35mcg. Fined £324 and ordered to pay a £32 victims' surcharge and £80 costs. Banned from driving for 16 months.

■ **REBECCA CURRY**, 31, of Boxhedge Terrace, Banbury, admitted being drunk and disorderly in a public place, namely People's Park, Banbury, on August 14. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £15 victims' surcharge and £50 costs.



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InBRIEF

Debate looking to the future

■ A SUSTAINABILITY forum will be held at Bicester and Banbury College next Thursday. Organised by local Quakers, the evening will be chaired by Dr Paula Clifford, past advisor to the Archbishop of Canterbury on climate change. The evening's events start with a light buffet at 6.30pm and the forum takes place between 7.30pm and 9.30pm. For more information, contact Judith Mason on 01295 720900, or Jane Burn on 01869 277770, or send an email to banburyevesham@yahoo.co.uk

Focus on GPs

■ LOCAL people have been invited to give their views on GP services. North Oxfordshire Locality Forum is holding an event to try to improve health services in Banbury, Bloxham, Chipping Norton, Cropredy, Deddington and Hook Norton. The meeting will be at Banbury Town Hall on Tuesday, October 7, between 7.15pm and 9pm. Details: email cscsu.media-team@nhs.net or call 01865 334640.

Got a story?
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01865 425500

Group steps in to avert mental health cash crisis

A MAJOR cut in funding for a county mental health service has been averted after NHS bosses agreed to top up its budget.

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group has agreed to pay £500,000 for the complex needs service – which helps about 700 people with emotional or mental health issues.

Its £700,000-a-year costs used to be met by The

Department of Health until the end of the 2013/14 financial year. Then the department cut its contribution to £350,000 the following year, and OCCG put in a further £250,000, leaving a £100,000 shortfall. There had been concerns about the future of the service at the start of the next financial year.

The Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust – which provides the service – warned the OCCG that a

shutdown could lead to a rise in suicide attempts and anti-depressant use. A statement from the Save Our Service group, which fought the changes, said: "We look forwards to working with Oxford Health and the OCCG to build a sustainable service."

"Patients are still in distress and it is to be hoped that the new service model is developed soon to help keep everyone safe."

Social workers face caseloads above recommended guidelines

Concern over a 'sharp' rise in child care cases

By Pete Hughes

THE number of county children being taken into care has risen sharply, putting "significant pressure" on social workers, a council boss has said.

Oxfordshire County Council figures show the number of children in care rose from 416 in March 2013 to 519 last month.

The rise was said to be due to the council taking a more "rigorous" approach to identifying neglect following concern about how it handled some cases.

Yet a council report said this was putting increased pressure on social workers who were taking on more cases than council guidelines recommended.

The deputy director of children's social care,

Lucy Butler, said: "Pressures on children's social care have risen significantly in recent months. Short-term mitigation plans have been put into place, including recruitment of agency workers, to ensure children remain protected."

The council has acted on concerns raised in serious case reviews, official investigations into how the council handled some cases.

For example, an Oxfordshire toddler nearly died from drinking methadone, which she found in her heroin addict mother's handbag, the review said.

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board recommended that agencies work better together to deal with allegations of domestic abuse.

Ms Butler said: "This change in numbers reflects a deliberate shift in practice following learning from recent serious case reviews and audits which highlighted the need for 'decisions not to drift' in chronic neglect cases."

The councillor responsible for children, Melinda Tilley, said she was "shocked by the increase", and said the increase was partly in response to recent child sexual exploitation cases.

A pilot scheme will be launched in Banbury this year between social workers and other agencies like Thames Valley Police, she said.

"We will work with 100 children from 47 families and try to sort out the families once and for all. Some of these families are chaotic. It is a challenging situation. We want to make sure children don't come back into care again. The idea of working closer together is to lessen workload on social workers and lessen the cost to the public."

The biggest rise in looked-after children was among one- to four-year-olds, from 27 last March to 73 last month.

This year the council set workload targets of 14 cases for each staff member working with looked after children, 16 for workers in family support teams and 18 for those in disability teams.

But in August "looked after" teams were working with 17.8 cases on average, family support workers up to 24.2 cases and disability workers up to 26.4.

Ofsted inspectors who visited the council between April 29 and May 21 rated children's services as "good".



ABOVE: Melinda Tilley, the county council's cabinet member for children, education and families

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Bid to scoop Government grants

OFFICIALS are starting work on a new bid for millions of pounds in Government funding to help boost growth in Oxfordshire.

Negotiations have started on the new round of funding for a series of schemes which would give the county's economy a helping hand.

Earlier this year the Government agreed to pump £15.7m of investment into Oxfordshire's economy for 2015/16.

Now a further £92m could be made available. Talks have started to secure this funding for 2016/17.

Oxfordshire County Council leader Ian Hudspeth said: "It will mean we have a firmer commitment towards some of the schemes."

"We will also see if there is anything else we can get advance funding for, or if we can be a bit more ambitious."

Director for environment and economy, Sue Scane, said negotiations could be completed by early January. She said: "Whilst new schemes and priorities will undoubtedly emerge, it is not envisaged that schemes outside of

the previously agreed long list will be negotiated for the 2016/17 round unless a highly credible and persuasive case is made."

The council's cabinet agreed what schemes should get cash in the 2015/16 financial year.

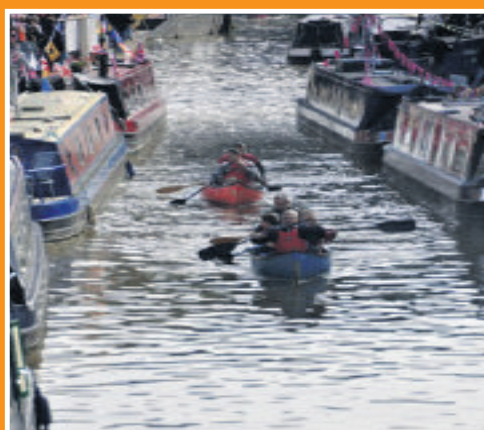
Mr Hudspeth added: "This money being spent in the future for the benefit of Oxfordshire people. This will give a real focus on the creation of jobs and skills. It should make Oxfordshire's future economy both cutting edge and dynamic".

IT'S ALMOST HERE

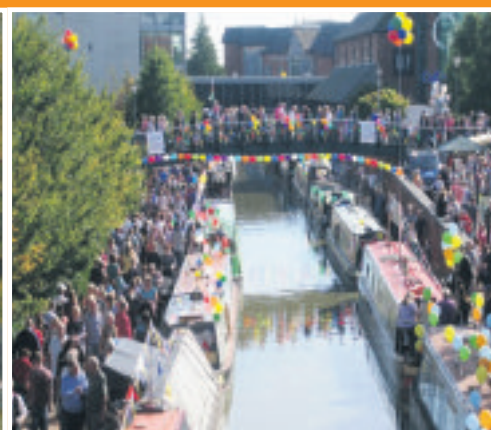
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InBRIEF**Wardens win RSPCA award**

■ CHERWELL District Council's dog warden service has been handed its second consecutive RSPCA community animal welfare footprint gold award. RSPCA inspectors praised the care, treatment and facilities provided to stray and lost dogs. Senior dog warden Neil Greenway said: "Our staff work incredibly hard all year round to ensure every dog we pick up receives the care, treatment and accommodation it deserves. So it's fantastic to have these efforts recognised." The council received a certificate from the RSPCA and is able to include the award logo on its letterheads and website.

Healthy walks

■ NORDIC walking courses will be on offer to Cherwell residents to help improve their health. The exercise uses up to 90 per cent of muscles in the body. The course will take place over three Saturdays, beginning this weekend, then on October 11 and 18. The cost is £20. Lessons will take place at Kingsfield, off Whitepost Road, Bodicote. For more information, or to sign up, email anne.tustian@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or call 01295 221607.

■ Education and safety initiatives save an estimated 365 lives

Fire service's campaign beats lifesaving target

A BID to reduce fire and road deaths to save an estimated 365 lives in ten years has been reached – two years before its deadline.

The 365alive campaign saved an estimated 386 lives since 2006 through education and safety initiatives, fire bosses said.

The reductions mean the cost of dealing with road smashes and fires has been cut by £1.34m and 840,000 people have been educated.

Oxfordshire's Chief Fire Officer Dave Etheridge said: "Lives in Oxfordshire have definitely been saved as a result of this campaign.

"The 365alive campaign came about from our determination to reduce the number of people killed in fires and on the roads, as well as making sure we preserve a life when someone is trapped in a building.

"In 2006 there were 68 people killed on Oxfordshire's roads – last year the total was 19.

"As a result of our actions we have also halved the number of people who have died in house fires.

"Thanks to the campaign there are more

By Andrew Ffrench

than 365 families who are still intact as a result.

"I joined the fire service 28 years ago and when I joined we waited for incidents to occur – now we are driven by prevention and protection."

He said: "The elderly and infirm are the most vulnerable group dying in fires, so we share a database with adult social care so that when someone comes on our radar we set up a home fire risk assessment to keep people safe in their own home. That has halved the incidents of fire deaths in the past eight years."

Mr Etheridge said a new scheme would be launched in two years' time, adding: "This has worked so well we don't want to stop."

It has now raised its annual target for 36 lives saved to 45.

One of the schemes helping 365alive is the Junior Citizens Trust Oxfordshire.

Local Year Six pupils are shown mocked-up practical emergency and safety situations.

The Test It Tuesday campaign also urges weekly checks on smoke alarms and cycle training for primary school-aged youngsters.



Chief Fire Officer Dave Etheridge



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Festival to offer folk heavyweights

HEADLINING this year's Banbury Folk Festival – to be staged on the weekend of October 10 to 12 – will be folk legends John Tams and Barry Coope.

John Tams is best known as "Rifleman Hagman" in the TV series *Sharpe*, in which he sings and is responsible for the musical arrangements.

He also wrote the songs and arranged the music for the London stage show *Warhorse*.

John and Barry have worked together on a number of projects in the past. John is considered by many to be one of our finest English songwriters and Barry is a widely respected singer and keyboard player.

John has previously won BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards for folk singer of the year, album of the year, and best traditional song.

His warm, tender-hearted and distinctive vocals remain among the most expressive and soulful in English music.

Barry combines his exquisite versatility as a singer with a deeply passionate mastery of harmony as an accompanist.

The collaboration of these two

extraordinary talents, who also happen to be great friends, is a recipe for a great evening of entertainment with a fine mixture of traditional and original songs.

As this year is the 100th anniversary of the First World War, the folk festival will be dedicated to peace, in honour of the new Peace Window at Banbury Town Hall.

Also appearing at the festival is Anthony John Clarke.

Belfast-born Anthony John is recognised as one of the top songwriters on the acoustic/folk scene. His song *The Broken Years* is hailed as one of the best songs ever written about the desire for peace in Ireland.

With 12 albums and three singles, including the beautiful *Seven in Ireland* and *Irish Eyes* to his credit, Anthony John enjoys an enormous following in UK, Europe, Australasia and the USA.

Fairport Convention multi-instrumentalist Dave Pegg toured with Anthony John last year and audiences loved their humorous banter. Anthony John is a funny and excellent raconteur.

Something Nasty in the Woodshed, a band who have previously played at the festival, return as the headline band on

Saturday afternoon.

Festival organiser Derek Droscher said: "The 'Nasties' have a powerful and unique sound. The potent mix of drum-driven electric and acoustic instruments, with the emotive sound of the great highland bagpipe, delivers a gut-punching performance that has captivated audiences wherever they have played."

Festival patron Isla St Clair will also be performing. Known as a TV personality presenter on the *Generation Game* and other shows, Isla is one of Britain's foremost traditional singers, noted for the depth of feeling she brings to Scotland's music.

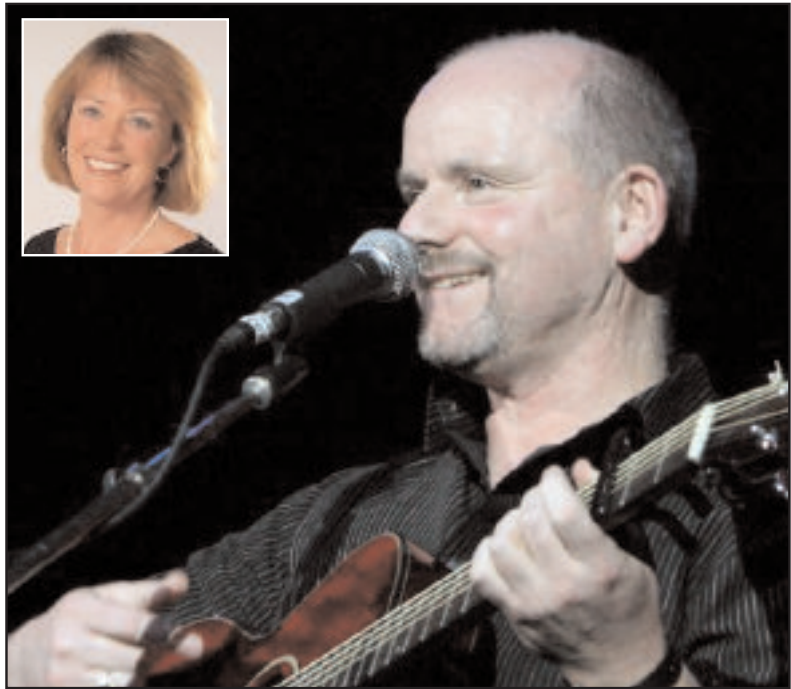
The folk festival will be centred around Banbury Town Hall, where there will be extra concerts using the new function room as well as the main hall. Events will also take place at Drayton Leisure Golf Centre, Banbury Folk Club's great new venue at the Banbury Cross and at other venues around town.

In addition, many excellent supporting artists, both locally- and nationally-known, will also be appearing.

The festival's ceilidh will feature the Old Mettle Dance Band and is on Friday night at Banbury Sea Cadets, plus there will be visiting Morris dancing sides on Saturday.

Tickets are – whole weekend: £45. Friday evening, Saturday afternoon or Saturday evening: £15. All day Saturday: £25. Sunday main events: £6 on the door. Friday ceilidh: £5 on the door – but included in the weekend ticket.

Tickets can be bought through the website – banburyfolkfestival.co.uk – or via Banbury Tourist Information Centre.



Anthony John Clarke, acclaimed as a top songwriter and, inset, Isla St Clair



ABOVE: John Tams and Barry Coope RIGHT: Flashback to when John Tams appeared in the TV series *Sharpe*



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02/10/2014



POWER OF LOVE Sociable, affectionate and relaxed Bedford female, 35, seeking a happy, uncomplicated man, to share the future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155988

TASTE OF ROMANCE Shy and Bedford-based female, 45, enjoys all the quiet things in life, now searching for a genuine, faithful and sincere man, to build a friendship and loving times together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172147 or send a text to 80360

MAKE A REAL MATCH Informed, outspoken and stylish Bedford female, 46, would like to meet a tidy, articulate gent, for caring and happy times together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171327 or send a text to 80360

CATCH A FALLING STAR Caring, loving, lady, 47 year old Buckingham female, 5'4", curvy, brown eyes, enjoys going to pubs, dancing, music. WITM a loyal, independent male, for companionship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 165815

COULD IT BE MAGIC? Spiritual and humorous Didcot woman, 48, attractive, with grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walks and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123582

WITH OR WITHOUT YOU Emotional, reliable and sensitive Witney girl, 49, 5'5", enjoys cosy nights in, cinema and holidays abroad. Just looking to meet an independent, reflective gent, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140276

GOOD LUCK CHARM Creative, honest and sincere Hemstead woman, 49, enjoys cooking, gardening and family life, looking for a cultured, mellow gent, to share the future with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174932 or send a text to 80360

QUIET AT FIRST Quiet, affectionate, blonde Luton woman, 50, would like to meet a happy, stable, loving man, for companionship and a little bit of romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 149025

LET'S LIVE A LITTLE Kind, 51 year old Milton Keynes female, 5'3", blue eyes, blonde hair, likes going out for meals, cosy drinks, walking and cosy nights in. Seeks a sincere, honest, reliable male to get to know. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174590 or send a text to 80360

MEET AND GREET Slim, honest Milton Keynes female, 51, 5'3", enjoys keeping fit and all the normal things, searching for a decent, romantic man, to share loving times and future happiness. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172417 or send a text to 80360

ONE LOVE Warm-hearted, caring and selfless Aylesbury female, 52, 5'6", searching for an energetic, trustworthy male, good sense of humour a must, for friendship and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155653

A GOOD COMPANION Loving, 52 year old Bedford female, enjoys music, walking, swimming, cycling, gardening and pub lunches. Dog owner, looking for a genuine, kind, sincere man for companionship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179768 or send a text to 80360

START LIVING AGAIN Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 53, 5'7", for love again and children, looking gent. Is the right man out there for me? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 798804

NEXT CHAPTER Positive, endearing and happy-go-lucky Banbury female, 54, divorced, good sense of humour and positive, would like to meet a reserved, mellow man, to share the future with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172351 or send a text to 80360

ARE YOU MY MAN? Sincere, 54 year old Bedford lady, 5'3", brunette, slim, enjoys eating in and out, walks, places of interest and swimming. Would like to meet a genuine male, aged 55-58, for friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 175512 or send a text to 80360

ARE YOU OUT THERE? Genuine Bedford lady, 54, slim, loyal, caring and friendly, enjoys swimming, cycling, cinema, walks and dining out, would like to meet a genuine male, for friendship and romantic times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 152922

ANYONE FOR LOVE? Happy, 56 year old Luton female, widow, enjoys holidays and travel, cooking and entertaining. Would like to meet a happy, jolly male, with a good sense of humour, to enjoy evenings in and out. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167294 or send a text to 80360

SOMETHING LASTING Perceptive, polite and romantic Luton female, 57, with children and grandchildren are a huge joy in my life. I would like to find an energetic, consistent man, to share the future with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167144

FIRED WITH LAUGHTER Bubbly, caring Oxfordshire female, GSOH, searching for a genuine, nice, caring guy, also with a great sense of humour. 5'10", med build, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171086 or send a text to 80360

SINCERE FRIENDSHIP Friendly and cuddly, 58 year old Buckingham female, widow, enjoys walks, meals out and drinks out. Would like to meet a sincere male for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 177002 or send a text to 80360

A COSY NIGHT IN? Kind, caring, 59 year old Aylesbury female, like walking, carboots, cinema, meals out or nights in watching television. Seeks a male for company and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 177977 or send a text to 80360

HOPING TO MEET YOU Very outgoing, 59 year old Witney lady, enjoys evenings out, theatre, cooking and walking. Would like to meet a gentleman for company and hopefully more in the future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179562

SIMILAR TO MYSELF? Cuddly, honest, witty woman, 59, 5'3", N/S, blonde hair, likes swimming, the theatre and weekend breaks away, seeking a humorous, reliable male, with similar interests, to share a life together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 153853 or send a text to 80360

ARE YOU MY MATCH? Kind, 59 year old Abingdon female, 5'2", red hair, medium build, love gardening, DIY, fun cosy nights in and cats. Seeking a genuine man with a good sense of humour for a romantic relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 173744 or send a text to 80360

SAME WAVELENGTH? Warm and sincere Abingdon female, 60, enjoys cycling, boot sales and walking the dog, would like to meet a calm, genuine and honest man, to share friendship and enjoy happy times with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 178761 or send a text to 80360

TABLE FOR TWO? Genuine, sincere, 60 year old Witney lady, loves going to concerts and listening to music. Would like to meet a friendly, trustworthy gentleman with a text for life, for friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172746

EVERYONE NEEDS SOMEONE Loving, professional, honest Bedford woman, 60, enjoys outdoor sports, singing, the gym and home life, would like to meet a man, with similar interests, for friendship and possibly more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 150736

SENSUAL Down-to-earth, vibrant, sensual Milton Keynes woman, 60, blonde hair, would like to meet an open-minded, kind, understanding gent, for fun, friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156926

EIGHT DAYS A WEEK Sincere, honest and fun South Oxford female, 61, brunette, widowed, with many varied interests in life, simply searching for a genuine and loyal man, for dining, walks and music. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179012 or send a text to 80360

TIME TO START AFRESH Warm and attractive Witney female, 62, 5'2", built, own car, likes meals out, music, the beach, cinema, pubs and travel. Seeking female between 20-40 for long-term relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289 or send a text to 80360

THIS ENCHANTED EVENING Intelligent, smartly dressed, 64 year old Witney female, widow, who enjoys socialising, theatre, cinema and holidays. Seeks a male to spend the evenings and weekends with who has similar interests. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170119

COFFEE AND A CHAT? Kind, caring and fun-loving, 64 year old Thame lady, enjoys being active, Pilates, table tennis, cycling, walking and dancing. Would like to meet a companion for social outings and good times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179554 or send a text to 80360

BRIGHTEN MY DAY Down-to-earth, 64 year old Bicester female, enjoys reading, gardening, rugby, watching sports, eating out, holidays, short breaks, theatre and cinema. Seeks a male for friendship initially. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 175514 or send a text to 80360

HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE Quite, polite and easy-going Milton Keynes female, 64, would like to find a nice man of similar age, for nice company and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179624 or send a text to 80360

DESCRIBE YOURSELF Fun loving Bedford male, 65, open minded and active, likes cosy times in, social drinks, reading and music, would like to meet a male, for friendship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154642 or send a text to 80360

COMPANY AND MORE Friendly, honest, 67 year old Aylesbury female, retired, widow, non-smoker, like holidays and camping. Would like to meet a male aged 60-65 for company, maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 176427 or send a text to 80360

RELY ON ME Happy, friendly, christian woman, 67, enjoys long walks and walking. Would like to meet a gentleman for company and possibly more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174939 or send a text to 80360

ADVENTURES AHEAD Loving, caring, 68 year old Aylesbury lady, widow, like socialising, holidays, camping and meals out. Would like to meet a gentleman for friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 175593 or send a text to 80360

WALK OF LIFE Self-assured, strong-minded and motivated Banbury girl, 72, just looking to meet a friendly, trustworthy male, for a special and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156046



MIX AND MATCH Sociable 35 year old Oxford guy, like running, outdoors, art and music. Searching for an outgoing girl, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174011 or send a text to 80360

CARING & CONSIDERATE Kind-hearted, active Oxford man, 36, enjoys playing sports and fine dining with friends and family, would like to meet a similar female, for companionship and love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147290 or send a text to 80360

FEEL THE LOVE Lively and loyal Oxford male, 40, 5'10", medium build, enjoys motorbikes, clubs, cinema, dining and more, simply searching for a loving and kind woman, to share friendship and happy times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171999

QUALITY COUNTS Bright, upbeat and happy Oxfordshire man, 42, with personality and a love of life, would like a date with a bubbly, tender, warm-hearted girl, then to share the good times and great relationships. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111253 or send a text to 80360

ARE YOU MY KIND? Kind, caring, 43 year old Oxford male, 5'10", slim build, own car, likes meals out, music, the beach, cinema, pubs and travel. Seeking female between 20-40 for long-term relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172910 or send a text to 80360

A FUN-LOVING MAN Out-going, laid-back, 46 year old Oxford male, wear glasses, smoker, enjoy cinema, night clubs, eating out, walks, films and games. Seeks a woman, aged 25-46, for fun, friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 177345

HEY HEY HEY Friendly, music loving male, 47, going to gigs and plays guitar, looking to meet a loving lady with similar interests for friendship, leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 150863 or send a text to 80360

COME CLOSER Active, kind-hearted and upbeat Oxford bloke, 47, 6'3", looking to find an insightful, liberal woman, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130080

MAKE MY DAY Laid-back, caring, 47 year old Oxford male, 5'11", slim-medium build, blue eyes, short hair, enjoys cooking, sports, walking and the coast. Seeks a lady, 35-50, with similar interests. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174616 or send a text to 80360

THIS ENCHANTED EVENING Understanding, caring, 47 year old Oxford male, 5'11", brown hair, blue eyes, enjoys walks in the countryside, old pubs, fitness, sports. Seeks an affectionate female, 40-50, for a relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170899 or send a text to 80360

MADE FOR EACH OTHER Happy-go-lucky Abingdon-Thames male, 48, 5'9", medium build, short hair, likes walks, cinema, social drink, quiet pubs, seeking a nice woman, for friendship and hopefully more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 166651 or send a text to 80360

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL Kind, caring, down-to-earth Thame male, 48, enjoys music, country walks, cooking, reading, films, seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, 25+. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137427

LOOK TO THE FUTURE Jovial, innovative and self-sufficient Reading gent, 52, wants to meet woman, to have fun and who knows. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 157382

CHEEK TO CHEEK Hard-working and happy Oxford male, 52, 5'7", own home, likes socialising, cooking, nights in and good company, now searching for a nice, sincere lady, to share friendship, love and laughter. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027 or send a text to 80360

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH Friendly, warm-hearted Abingdon male, 52, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring, well-matured girl, to enjoy good times together. Is you're looking for true love then get in touch. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115894

ACCEPT EACH OTHER Easygoing Wantage male, 53, own car, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet an outgoing female, for good times leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135164 or send a text to 80360

HOPING TO MEET YOU Bedfordshire male, 53, own home, three children, hobbies include music, football and reading, would like to meet a lady for friendship and possibly more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 151093

FUN AND ENJOYMENT Kind, caring and reliable 54 year old Oxford male, like coastal walks, the countryside, animals, eating out, cosy nights in, history, DIY, cooking, seeking a female for a long-term relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171063

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 54, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278

LOOKING FOR THE ANSWER Caring, honest, 54 year old Oxford male, good sense of humour, enjoy pubs, eating out and cinema. Seeks a like-minded lady for a long-term relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 178197 or send a text to 80360

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THE START OF SOMETHING NEW? Mature Oxford man, 55, 5'8", green eyes, N/S, likes music, walking and keeping fit. GSOH, would like to meet a nice, bright lady, for fun times and see where that leads to. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158142 or send a text to 80360

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 56, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132836

MAKE A DATE Young-at-heart, blue-eyed Wallingford man, 58, good sense of humour, enjoys dancing, would like to meet a friendly lady, to get to know each other and see where that leads to. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159203 or send a text to 80360

BY MOONLIGHT Upbeat and faithful Burford chap, 60, widowed, own home and car, hard-working, loves to drive, walks, the countryside and more, now looking for a similar woman, for true company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171916 or send a text to 80360

COME ALIVE Ambitious, unconventional and focused Bampton / Burford / Carterton man, 60, would like to find a protective, committed female, for friendship and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 160696 or send a text to 80360

PASSION FLOWER Creative, instinctive and sympathetic Wallingford man, 61, looking for an approachable, helpful female, to share the future with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360

KEEPING WITH THE TIMES Happy go lucky, blue-eyed Banbury man, 61, 5'6", slim build, likes gardening, cinema, meals out, travel, countryside and 60s music, seeks genuine lady, for friendship maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156014 or send a text to 80360

LOCAL LADY? Polite, honest, genuine, 61 year old Wallingford male, 6ft, widower, wear glasses, like staying in, going out, movies and weekends away. Seeks a nice, honest female for company and friendship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 173013 or send a text to 80360

FUN AND LAUGHTER Honest, sensitive and decent Oxford man, 61, would like to find a warm-hearted, genuine, caring woman, to share laughter and enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145981

DECISION IS YOURS Honest, easygoing Yorkshire man living in Banbury, 61, 5'6", slim build, self-employed, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, travel, countryside, seeks genuine lady, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140930

SCRUBS UP WELL! Optimistic, positive, 62 Witney male, I'm active with a good sense of humour. Having diverse interests and still scrubbing up well, seeking an attractive lady who is also active and enjoys life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161846 or send a text to 80360

SERIOUS ABOUT A RELATIONSHIP? Fun, fit, 62 year old Oxfordshire guy, would like to meet a nice lady for friendship and hopefully a long-term relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179793 or send a text to 80360

POSITIVE ATTITUDE Fit Latino male, 63, looking for someone who can share fun, life in general and hopefully love with. Oxford. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 460522

SOUND LIKE YOUR MATCH? Tall, handsome, fit Abingdon male, 63, slim build, enjoys DIY, gardening, travel and walking, seeking a slim, petite, adventurous female, for good company and to enjoy a happy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159314

FAMILY LIFE Well educated male, 59, I live in Oxford. I'm an active guy and run my own business. I have children and grand children. Interests: music/comedy. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 455368

EYES ON THE PRIZE Warm-hearted, active and outgoing man, 65, looking for a shy, considerate female, for fun times and happiness. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 151562 or send a text to 80360

MORE IN TIME Thoughtful, kind, self-employed Witney male, 66, loves cinema, theatre, eating out and more, searching for a serious-minded lady, for a loving and supportive relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 109413 or send a text to 80360

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD Tender, fit and romantic Oxford man, 67, would like to find a woman interested in the arts for friendship, sharing some of life's memorable moments including concerts and long country walks. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 150131

COSY UP WITH ME Kind, caring, reliable widower, 67, looking for a companion who like home life, holidays and sport, to build a life and future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 151922 or send a text to 80360

ARE YOU MY DREAM? Young-looking, solvent, loyal, 68 year old male, Oxfordshire, various interests, travel, cinema, music, ect. and new adventures, seeks a nice, loyal, feminine lady for companionship initially. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132140

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY Loyal, genuine, solvent Oxfordshire male, 68, 5'9", 11st, own home and car, retired professional, loves music, theatre and exploring new ideas, seeks an attractive, feminine lady, to share life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998

START OF A NEW JOURNEY Cheerful, slim, fit Banbury male, 71, ex forces, GSOH, likes sport, walks, animals and cosy evenings in, searching for a decent, positive lady, to settle down with and share a happy future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104901 or send a text to 80360

DANCE INTO TOMORROW Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 79, non smoker, likes social drinks from time to time, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving and lasting relationship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937



SAIL AWAY Sociable, bubbly and happy Bicester female, 42, seeking a chatty, optimistic female, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147448 or send a text to 80360

ANYONE OUT THERE? Young-at-heart, 66 year old Luton female, would like to meet a female of a similar age for friendship and to go on holiday together this year. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170118 or send a text to 80360



PLENTY TO GIVE Laid-back, down to earth Wallingford male, 30, likes all the usual things in life, simply searching for an easygoing male, for fun times and to share life's pleasures. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179150 or send a text to 80360

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW... Easygoing, friendly Didcot male, 67, enjoys walks, theatre, cosy times in, socialising, seeks a friendly, active chap, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131800 or send a text to 80360

SOCIAL TIMES Caring, sociable 67 Abingdon-On-Thames male. I am semi-retired, presentable and cheerful, looking for similar man to share good times, fun and friendship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161819 or send a text to 80360

LET'S EXPLORE Abingdon male, 70, 5'9", medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567 or send a text to 80360

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Duo's debut comedy is just a rip-roaring riot

WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAY (12A, 95 mins)
Comedy/Drama/Romance. David Tennant, Rosamund Pike, Ben Miller, Amelia Bullmore, Billy Connolly, Emilia Jones, Bobby Smallbridge, Harriet Turnbull, Celia Imrie. Directors: Andy Hamilton, Guy Jenkin.

In 2007, Andy Hamilton and Guy Jenkin abandoned the conventions of a tightly scripted sitcom and took a more fluid approach to mining laughs in the breakout hit *Outnumbered*.

While the adult characters' lines were committed to the page, the young actors were allowed to improvise around suggestions from Hamilton and Jenkin, and consequently delivered natural performances, reacting instinctively to set-ups and punchlines.

The writer-directors adopt the same winning recipe for this uproarious feature film debut, an ill-fated family road trip laced with absurdity that touches the heart and tickles the funny bone.

Once again, it's the younger cast who scene-steal with aplomb, explaining why a bout of car sickness is a source of joy ("It's like being a fountain!") and succinctly distilling the anguish and betrayal of parental infidelity into a single throwaway line: "Dad had an affair with a Paralympic athlete with one foot."

That's not to say that Hamilton and Jenkin short-change the rest of the ensemble cast, including David Tennant, Rosamund Pike and Glaswegian firebrand Billy

Connolly. They snaffle a generous smattering of belly laughs too, like when Connolly's cantankerous grandfather tries to explain Hitler's seizure of land in terms a bairn might understand: "Like Monopoly, but with more screaming."

Gordie McLeod (Connolly) is poised to celebrate his 75th birthday in the Scottish Highlands.

His self-obsessed son Gavin (Ben Miller) is hosting the lavish party to impress the neighbours and hopefully secure the captaincy of the local golf club.

Gavin's long-suffering and neurotic wife Margaret (Amelia Bullmore) remains in the background, occasionally exploding with pent-up rage.

As the party beckons, Gavin's less successful brother Doug (David Tennant) and his wife Abi (Rosamund Pike) arrive with their three children in tow: 11-year-old Lottie (Emilia Jones), who scribbles repeatedly in her notebook so she can remember which lies she is supposed to tell; six-year-old Mickey (Bobby Smallbridge), who is obsessed with Vikings; and five-year-old Jess (Harriet Turnbull), whose best friends are two rocks christened Eric and Norman.

The birthday celebrations are unexpectedly thrown into disarray and a media scrum descends on the family's doorsteps along with an interfering social services officer called Agnes (Celia Imrie), who casts doubt on Doug and Abi's ability to nurture their dysfunctional brood.

What We Did On Our Holiday is a rip-roaring riot, laying bare the



A scene from *What We Did On Our Holidays* showing David Tennant, Rosamund Pike, Amelia Bullmore and Billy Connolly

Picture: PA
Photo/
Lionsgate

petty jealousies and deep-rooted fears within a family while dealing with serious issues through the unblinkered eyes of the three children.

Tennant and Miller spark a fiery sibling rivalry with excellent support from Pike and Bullmore, the latter proving that it's the quiet ones you have to watch out for.

Hamilton and Jenkin eschew cloying sentimentality in the film's tricky final third, striking a pleasing and ultimately winning balance between musing and amusing.

CakeWhat's on

Music

FRIDAY: New Inn, Main Road, Middleton Cheney: Nikki Loy. Pop princess and soul diva rolled into one returns by popular request. Free entry. 9pm. 01295 710399.

SATURDAY: Banbury Cross, Butchers Row, Banbury: C.Ody. Bringing you the sounds of the 60s and 70s. Free entry. 9pm. 01295279014.

Lampit arms, Tadmarton:

Andy Robbins. Young vocal guitarist makes his venue debut. Free entry. 9pm. 01295 780070.

SUNDAY: Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street, Oxford: Handel's Messiah. Kennington and District United Church Choirs will perform. Free, with collection for Helen and Douglas House. 2.30pm. 01865 735885.

Theatre

THURSDAY: Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Jenny Eclair: Eclairious. 7.30pm. Touring as a stand-up gives Eclair

enormous pleasure. It also gives her dreadful varicose veins. £17.50. 01865 305305.

FRIDAY: New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: Sensational 60s Experience. 7.30pm. 50th anniversary tour featuring: Herman's Hermits, The Swinging Blue Jeans, Dave Berry, The Union Gap, The Ivy League, Alan Mosca (Freddie and the Dreamers). £28.40-£30.40 + trans. fee. 0844 871 3020.

SATURDAY: New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: An Evening of Burlesque. 8pm. Direct from London's West End. £28.40 + trans. fee. 0844 8713020.

The Glee Comedy Club, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford: Live stand-up comedy. Four comedians from the top of the comedy circuit. Doors open at 7.15pm and close at 8pm £14.50 / £5 with an NUS card. 0871 4720400.

Ultimate Picture Palace, Jeune Street, Cowley Road, Oxford: Billy Elliot The Musical Encore Performance. 3pm. This special

performance brings the musical to cinemas for the first time. £12. 01865 245288.

SUNDAY: New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: Alan Davies. 8pm. Little Victories. His follow-up, stand-up tour. £38.90-£43.40 + trans. fee. 0844 8713020.

Events

FRIDAY: Shell and the Art of Advertising: Upton House and Gardens, near Banbury. This exhibition brings together Shell's groundbreaking advertising campaigns of the 1930s and the fortune and philanthropy of Viscount Bearsted. Normal National Trust admission charges apply. 1pm. Free. 01295 670266.

SUNDAY: Open gardens (NGS): Church Farm Field, Church Lane, Epwell. Woods; arboretum with wild flowers (planting started 1992); over 90 different trees and shrubs in 4.5 acres. Dogs on leads. 2pm to 6pm. £2, children free. 01295 788473.



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ABOVE: Banbury United goalkeeper Leigh Bedwell



ABOVE RIGHT: David Lynn

Banbury's cup hopes crushed

BANBURY United were no match for Conference South side Weston-super-Mare as they slid out of the FA Cup second qualifying round.

The Puritans fell behind in the 11th minute when a corner from the right was volleyed home by the unmarked Jake Harris from eight yards.

Weston proceeded to control the first half, and increased their lead just after the half-hour mark when a move down the left ended with Corey Williams firing home.

Banbury's best spell came in the second half.

Substitute David Lynn stung Luke Purnell's hands in the Weston goal, and fellow replacement Leam Howards broke through

Weston-super-Mare	3
(Harris 11, 69, Williams 32)	
Banbury Utd	0

down the left, but from a narrow angle was unable to beat the keeper from eight yards.

Weston effectively sealed victory in the 69th minutes when Harris ran through down the left before slotting the ball home from a narrow angle past Leigh Bedwell.

Banbury Utd: Bedwell, Cray, Mzungwana (Lynn HT), Martin, Fishwick, Westbrook, Walcott, Hawtin, Shama (Howards HT), Wickham, Browne (Green 72). Subs not used: Hill, Tappin, Jervis, White.

Attendance: 279.

STARS with Claire Petulengro

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ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19 This week it really is a case of if you think you can you will and if you think you can't you won't. Wednesday's full moon could see in your telling secrets which are not really yours to share. Caution my friend, remember the secrets others know of yours! Effort you put into your career on Friday can help you make an important crossover. Ring now to make the most of this week's stars. 0906 585 4360	LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22 The more pressure you put on a work situation the more of a stalemate it seems to be facing. Wait to see what other's next move is going to be this week before you do anything drastic. Libra as, with this week's line up, I think you're going to be in for a pleasant surprise. A face from the past affects your present situation and can change your future if you give them the green light. Ring now for a full reading. 0906 585 4366
TAURUS Apr 20-May 20 The stars give you enthusiasm in abundance and you no longer worry about how things look, but how they feel. Older people in your life deserve more respect. Think about how you are talking to them and about them this week. Remember, you will get older in time so treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself. Ring now to hear how instant attractions are worth following up. 0906 585 4361	SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21 This week is all about putting the past behind you and moving on with your life. For too long now, you've had issues hanging over your head which were only making you stressed and ill. If you can make the effort to focus on the future, then you'll find great things happening. Job interviews or exams you do now prove really successful. Ring now to hear how foreign links seduce you. 0906 585 4367
GEMINI May 21-Jun 20 Mars hands you the gift of luck and you start to see how many possibilities there are in your life, rather than the limitations. You laugh at the lack of confidence and anxiety you experienced over the last few days and start instead to form a game plan for control over your life. A good time for you to try out your powers of seduction! Call now to hear why family need careful handling. 0906 585 4362	SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21 You'll be dealing with some really difficult faces this week and it's going to be up to you to show that you can be the bigger person and not bite at what they say and do. A reaction is exactly what they're after, so don't give it to them. News on a younger person gives you cause for celebration. Ring now to hear why this is such an exciting time for travel in your life. 0906 585 4368
CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22 Stop trying so hard to win the affection of others and work instead on what you want from life. You see Cancer, it's imperative that those you choose to spend your life with know how to fit in with you, rather than you just adjusting to them all of the time. A difficult relationship comes to a head. It's decision time. Ring now so I can give you the confidence to be true to you. 0906 585 4363	CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19 You're dragging your heels in an issue which demands quick action. Watch out Capricorn, as you're in danger of losing a friendship which has been a rock for you in the past few months. Time for a heart to heart, so that you can tell a certain person the real reason behind your recent strange behaviour. Give me a call now to hear why it's imperative you deal with contractual matters by Thursday. 0906 585 4369
LEO Jul 23-Aug 22 Fame of a kind beckons for many of you Leos as, by this time next week, many people will know your name and of your reputation too. Family only want what's best for you and that's why they're interfering, so please try to remember this, especially when you face Friday's confrontations. Wear green for luck in business. Ring now to hear who's taking advantage of you lately. 0906 585 4364	AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18 You have an abundance of reasons to push for what you want this week. You have the support, the energy, the focus, this is your time. Aquarius. An event which occurred at the beginning of this month has left a sour taste in your mouth and you would be wise to make "that" phone call sooner rather than later to avoid too many people becoming involved. Ring now so I can share my visions with you. 0906 585 4370
VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22 You know you've gone too far with a close one and been mean, but you also don't know how to say sorry, and part of you doesn't want to either. Don't let things fester for too long or you could drive a wedge between you both which is not easy to remove. Act natural with them and they'll get back to normal with you my friend. Ring now to hear why Friday sees incredible opportunities before you. 0906 585 4365	PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20 It's going to be all too easy for you to get involved in other people's problems this week, but doing so will only be taking away the focus you should be placing on your personal life. This, Pisces, is the week that many of your sign will be finding their soul mates. Smile at that stranger you like the look of, they could just be your destiny! Phone now to hear whose been giving you false promises. 0906 585 4371

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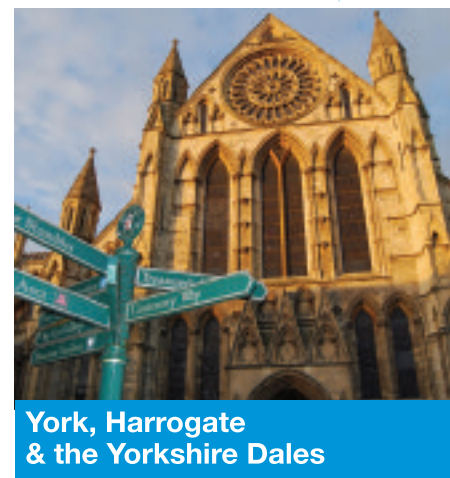
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8 PUBLIC NOTICES**Public Notices****OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****COMMONS ACT 2006 – SECTION 15(1)****NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF LAND AS A TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN**

To: Every reputed owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of any part of the land described below, and to all others whom it may concern.

Application has been made to the Oxfordshire County Council, Definitive Map & Commons, Signal Court, Old Station Way, Eynsham, Oxford, OX29 4TL by Peter Hardman on behalf of Sibford Gower Parish Council, The Mount, Main Street, Sibford Gower, Banbury, Oxon, OX15 5RT under Section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons (Registration of Town or Village Greens) (Interim Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2007. The application seeks the inclusion in the register of Town or Village Greens of the land described in the Schedule below which is claimed to have qualified for registration as a Town or Village Green on 18 November 2013 by virtue of use by inhabitants of Sibford Gower Parish for lawful sports and pastimes as of right for a period of more than 20 years up to the date specified in the application.

The application, which includes a plan of the land proposed for registration, may be inspected at the following office of the **Registration Authority, Oxfordshire County Council, Definitive Map & Commons, Signal Court, Old Station Way, Eynsham, Oxford, OX29 4TL** between the hours of 9.00am to 4.30pm, Monday – Friday. Please call 01865 810808 to make an appointment.

Copies of the documents may also be inspected online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/consultation or at the following local authority offices:

1. Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA
2. Oxford Central Library Reference Library, Westgate, Oxford, OX1 1DJ
3. Hook Norton Library, High Street, Hook Norton, Banbury, Oxon, OX15 7NY

If the Registration Authority is satisfied that the land described below qualifies for registration as a Town or Village Green, it will so register the land.

Any person wishing to object to the registration of the land as a Town or Village Green should send a statement of the facts on which the objection is based to the **Senior Rights of Way Officer, Oxfordshire County Council, Definitive Map & Commons, Signal Court, Old Station Way, Eynsham, Oxford, OX29 4TL** on or before **14 November 2014**. Any representations that are to be taken into account by the Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and will be copied to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties.

Dated 2 October 2014

Signed: Sue Scane, Director for Environment and Economy on behalf of the Registration Authority

Schedule

Sibford Gower Village Pond, Main Street, Sibford Gower, Banbury, Oxon, OX15 5RT

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9 RECRUITMENT



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